

Air Force offers perfect prom

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas (AFPN) – The Air Force, along with Perfect Proms and Universal recording artists Sister Hazel, is sponsoring the first ever Perfect Prom Sweepstakes.

The sweepstakes, which began Jan. 2, will run through Feb. 27.

The Perfect Prom Sweepstakes is being used to reinforce and expand a new message the Air Force has for high school students – “Be safe. Be smart. Be sober. Make the right choice.”

“The sweepstakes is a chance to gain maximum exposure to an important message,” said Brig. Gen. Duane Deal, Air Force Recruiting Service commander. “We’re excited about reaching teens with this message, as well as our message of opportunities in the Air Force.”

Although not directly tied to the recruiting process, the campaign offers a chance for recruiters to reinforce good citizenship among one of their primary audiences. It also offers opportunities that include nearly 200 career fields, with special emphasis this year in mechanical and technical career fields, as well as officer opportunities in the Air Force.

“We’re serious about helping young people to make good choices,” said Master Sgt. Juan Demiranda, AFRS account executive. “Recruiters and high school students are very familiar with each other, so we feel we’re communicating a social message that is beneficial to everybody.”

One student will win the grand prize, and the school he or she attends will receive an all-expenses paid prom and a live post-prom concert by Sister Hazel. Sixty other students will win prizes in the sweepstakes, including tuxedo and limousine rentals, and makeovers.

StudentAware Communications initiated the Perfect Prom campaign of “Be safe. Be smart. Be sober. Make the Right Choice” in 1994. The thrust of this campaign is centered on a very vulnerable time when many high school students are at risk of making bad choices.

More than 12,000 high schools across the country received promotional materials to show students how to enter the sweepstakes. The program will also be highlighted in popular teen magazines and Web sites. Students can enter online at www.airforce.com or www.perfect-proms.com.

Carbon monoxide

Residents should look out for silent killer

TYNDALL AIR FORCE BASE, Fla. (AFPN) – Residents in cold weather areas could be facing an unexpected danger – carbon monoxide poisoning.

Carbon monoxide, or CO, is produced by the incomplete burning of fossil fuels, such as natural gas, oil, propane, coal or wood. The biggest culprits in homes are fossil fuel burning furnaces, fireplaces and stoves.

Carbon monoxide is a colorless, odorless, tasteless gas. Symptoms of poisoning include nausea, dizziness or headaches, drowsiness, inattention or fatigue. More serious symptoms include lack of coordination, weakness and confusion. The effects of mild poisoning can be reversed if caught in time; however, severe poisoning can result in brain or heart damage, or death.

In fact, CO poisoning causes about 500 unintentional deaths per year in the United States, according to Capt. Nisara Suthon, 8th Medical Group Public Health Chief. Kunsan members should contact public health at 782-4510 before living off base.

Two years ago, a Navy petty officer, his two children and two stepchildren died from carbon monoxide poisoning at

Meridian Naval Air Station, Miss. Shortly thereafter, separate cases of carbon monoxide poisoning were reported at Charleston Air Force Base, S.C. (no one died, but family members became ill). Because of those incidents, the Navy ordered carbon monoxide detectors installed in 75,000 of its housing units, and last year, the Air Force began installing alarms in all Air Force housing units that burn fossil fuels.

Occasionally, carbon monoxide alarms will activate prematurely even though there may not be a significant amount of carbon monoxide present.

“Carbon monoxide alarms are a developing technology, not a refined technology,” said Jerry Doddington, a heating systems specialist at the Air Force Civil Engineer Support Agency. “But, the feeling is, if we can provide an increased level of protection for our housing residents then it’s worth it.”

Alarms installed in Air Force housing are newer models that meet Underwriters Laboratories’ updated standards. Those standards help reduce false alarms by requiring detectors to sound when potentially threatening levels of gas are present

for an extended period.

While alarms offer a greater sense of security for housing residents, Doddington said the focus in the Air Force is on eliminating the problem – faulty heating equipment.

“An alarm is not a solution to the problem, it’s only a signal that there is a problem. The best solution is proper inspection and maintenance of the fuel burning equipment in the house,” Doddington said. Air Force policy now requires annual routine inspections of furnaces in military housing.

Although most off-base communities have not mandated carbon monoxide detectors, there is some demand for them from homeowners and renters. Detectors cost \$40 to \$60 and can be purchased at most hardware stores. Doddington said consumers should look for brands that are UL Standard 2034 approved.

Additional CO risks include idling an automobile in an enclosed area, allowing a boat engine to idle for extended periods, and using space heaters in poorly ventilated areas, Suthon said. For more information about CO safety, visit the public health office at building 407.

ASYMCA extends to Pacific bases

HICKAM AIR FORCE BASE, Hawaii (PACAFNS) — To help make the Pacific region a better place to live, the Pacific Air Forces command chief master sergeant recently formed a partnership with the Armed Services YMCA of the USA to offer more support programs at command bases.

Command Chief Master Sgt. Ronald Crowl formed the partnership with ASYMCA National Headquarters in Springfield, Va., to improve the quality of life for Air Force and sister-servicemembers and their families throughout the Pacific region.

One of the services added provides for a part-time employee to manage the Friends of the Stork’s Nest program at Kadena Air Base, Japan. The ASYMCA also purchased a van for the program’s use. The paid employee will manage a home that hosts military members and their guests, whose premature babies have been admitted to the Stork’s Nest, a neonatal care unit, at Kadena. The van will be used to transport the families from the home to the hospital.

Misawa Air Base, Japan, residents can now receive free child-care seats on loan from family support that were donated by GEICO through the ASYMCA.

In Alaska, the Fairbanks International Airport now has a military welcome center courtesy of the ASYMCA and a local contractor who donated \$10,000 in equipment and labor. The facility will provide a comfortable waiting area for servicemembers and their families while they await transportation in and out of the air-

port.

All nine PACAF bases have been added to the ASYMCA’s “First Book” program. The program, managed through the base libraries, is designed to provide children with their first book.

One future program being evaluated includes a daily one-hour class for preschoolers teaching basic exercise techniques at Yokota Air Base, Japan. Families will take their preschool children to a Yokota Kinder Gym with equipment and instructor provided by ASYMCA. The chief expects this program to be operational late next year.

Another future program being reviewed by the chief and ASYMCA is support for the “project cheer” program. This program would provide activities and trips, for single military members at Misawa Air Base, Japan.

“The ASYMCA has historically helped stateside Army and Navy facilities with programs similar to what Air Force helping agencies offer,” said Crowl. “However, over the years through continued budget and manpower cuts the Air Force agencies like family support centers have reduced some programs.”

“I asked ASYMCA if they would consider helping PACAF improve the quality of life for the military members throughout our AOR (Area of Responsibility) with these programs and they agreed,” Crowl said.

Crowl said the new partnership is the ASYMCA’s first overseas venture in more than 20 years.

Airman magazine prints almanac edition

SAN ANTONIO (AFPN) – “Aerospace force” is the theme for the January almanac issue of Airman magazine.

The Air Force operates with the full use of air, space and information operations for the benefit of theater commanders to meet mission objectives – a seamless aerospace force for the 21st century.

Known as “The Book,” the January issue provides an overview of fixed wing and rotary wing aircraft, missiles, organizations, bases, satellites, plus other facts and figures.

The issue is currently on the Air Force Link Web site at www.af.mil/news/airman. Extra hard copies may be ordered for units while they last by sending complete mailing addresses to afnspub@afnews.af.mil.